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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**CULTURE AND HISTORY TOUR ADDED TO VISITNH.GOV**

New Weekend Itinerary Provides a Trip across the State to Connect with the Past

Concord, New Hampshire, January 26, 2011 – Visitors to New Hampshire have yet another exciting itinerary to explore as state tourism officials today announced the addition of the Culture & History Tour to the www.visitnh.gov website.

Director of New Hampshire Travel & Tourism Development, Lori Harnois, says, “Practically every city and town in New Hampshire has its own unique story to tell and this tour is all about connecting with the past. Visitors and residents alike get the opportunity to learn more about America’s heritage, and how our ancestors helped shape the New Hampshire that we know and love today.”

The Granite State is broken up into seven very different tourism regions, each with its own distinctive culture and history. The new Culture & History Tour, intended to take two days of touring, takes visitors through several of those regions, where they can learn about and even experience life as it was many years ago.

The Culture & History Tour begins in Portsmouth at Strawberry Banke Museum (<http://www.strawberrybanke.org/>) where visitors can experience and imagine how people lived and worked in this typical American neighborhood throughout four centuries of history. Through its restored houses, featured exhibits, interpretive programs, and historic landscapes and gardens, Strawberry Banke tells the stories of the many generations who settled in the Portsmouth community from the late 17th to the mid-20th century.

Next on the tour is Canterbury Shaker Village (<http://www.shakers.org/>), in the Merrimack Valley Region of the state. Traveling from Portsmouth to Canterbury, visitors can browse the antique stores along Route 4. Once at the Village, visitors of all ages can learn about Shaker traditions and culture, and enjoy performances, demonstrations and celebrations such as the summertime Meeting House concerts and a candlelit Christmas stroll.

Continuing on to the Dartmouth-Lake Sunapee Region, The Fells (<http://www.thefells.org/>) in Newbury is one of New England’s finest examples of an early 20th century summer estate. Visitors can stroll the length of the 100-foot Perennial Border, discover the Old Garden hidden behind masses

of Rhododendron, and admire the view of Lake Sunapee from the formal Rose Terrace and renowned hillside Rock Garden. Nearby in Cornish is the Saint Gaudens National Historic Site (<http://sgnhs.org/>), with its 150 acres of studios, gardens and the former home of one of America's foremost sculptors, Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

“Another famous landmark in this area is the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge (<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/bridges/p39.html>), connecting New Hampshire to Vermont,” says Harnois. “This has the distinction of being the longest historical covered bridge in the world. It is also part of the Connecticut National Scenic Byway, a great way to continue your adventure and experience the rural countryside of New Hampshire.”

The Tour also includes several suggested stops in the Merrimack Valley, White Mountain and Monadnock Regions, including the Currier Museum of Art (<http://www.currier.org/>) in Manchester, Robert Frost Place (<http://www.frostplace.org/>) in Franconia and The McDowell Colony (<http://www.macdowellcolony.org/>) in Peterborough.

The Culture & History Tour brochure (pdf) can be downloaded from the www.visitnh.gov website on the Cultural Itineraries (<http://visitnh.gov/planning-and-travel-tools/itineraries/culture-itineraries.aspx>) page. While there, check out other trip suggestions, like a Grand Winter Getaway, Chocolate & Martini Tour, or the Franco-American Heritage Tour.

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Travel and Tourism Development, as part of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, works with the state's seven travel regions to increase visitation, travel and visitor expenditures in order to expand business activity and employment throughout the state. The division is responsible for domestic and international advertising and public relations, literature publication and distribution, www.visitnh.gov administration, grant administration and research to monitor and measure the impact of travel and tourism to the state. For more information about New Hampshire tourism, call 603-271-2665 or visit www.visitnh.gov.

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